

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1176  
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Claudette Hunt Lehew  
of Memphis on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Claudette Hunt Lehew is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, a pianist, composer, educator, and minister of music, Claudette Lehew is the product of a musical family and a second generation music educator; and

WHEREAS, she was educated at Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, where she participated in the Lane College band, concert choir, and symphony orchestra; after graduation Ms. Lehew became a music educator, teaching at public schools in Michigan, Florida, and Tennessee, and serving as Chair of the music department at Mary Holmes College in West Point, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Claudette Lehew continued her studies in music, earning a master's degree in music from Tennessee State University; she has also pursued post-graduate studies at the University of Memphis and regularly attends workshops and symposiums focusing on music theory and performance; and

WHEREAS, in a continuing effort to inspire and educate young people, Claudette Lehew founded the Lehew Piano Studio, where students learn music theory, composition, and master the art of performance; she is a board member of the local Memphis Gospel Music Workshop of America, Memphis Chapter and has attended the national Gospel Music Workshop of America conference since 1991; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lehew is the former Minister of Music for St. Andrew African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she managed the music program and direction for the Elmer Martin

Singers, Male Chorus, Women's Chorus, and Mass Choir; during this tenure and by her leadership, the Church Music Workshop of St. Andrew was formed, featuring nationally acclaimed gospel music writers and artists such as Margaret P. Douroux, Keith Hampton, Stephen Roberts, Dello Thedford, and Glenn Burleigh; and

WHEREAS, Claudette Lehew is currently an Orff Music Specialist at the Rozelle Creative and Performing Arts Elementary School in Memphis, where she directs the Rozelle Showstoppers and the Rozelle Concert Choir; her students have received numerous awards from local and national festivals and have had the honor of performing at the White House, the United Nations, and with the Russian Ballet in a performance of the Nutcracker Suite; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lehew is taking a much deserved retirement from Rozelle Creative and Performing Arts Elementary School after twenty-eight years in the field of education; she has served with the utmost acumen and alacrity throughout her outstanding tenure at Rozelle, and will be honored at a retirement celebration on May 21, 2006, for her tremendous career of musical service, entertainment, enlightenment, and education; and

WHEREAS, Claudette Lehew is currently the Director of Music at Mt. Olive Cathedral Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; she will continue to work with the Memphis Performing Arts Youth Choir after her retirement; and

WHEREAS, her professional and musical accomplishments notwithstanding, she is most grateful for the love and support of her musically talented family, including daughter, Kimberly Patrice; sisters, Paula (Hunt) Phillips, Gwendolyn (Hunt) Carter, and Embery Hunt; and aunt, Willie Hester Tharpe; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lehew is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential as musicians, performers, and citizens; she has served as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Claudette Lehew truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ms. Claudette Lehew on the occasion of her retirement from Rozelle Creative and Performing Arts Elementary School, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.